

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRAIA 00180 151627Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 EB-08 DODE-00

L-03 /094 W

-----077333 170050Z /14

R 151526Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY PRAIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0145

INFO AMEMBASSY BISSAU POUCH

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR POUCH

USINT HAVANA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAIA 0180

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, PINR, EAIR, MOPS, AO, CV

SUBJECT: USE OF AMILCAR CABRAL INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

1. IN CONNECTION WITH INCREASED USE OF AMILCAR CABRAL AIRPORT TO FERRY CUBAN MILITARY PERSONNEL AND TECHNICIANS TO POINTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA (REPORTED BY OTHER CHANNELS), EMBASSY HAS LEARNED THAT SOVIETS AND CUBANS NOW HAVE PERMANENTLY STATIONED GROUND SUPPORT AND MAINTENANCE PERSONNEL ON SAL ISLAND. TOTAL OF PERHAPS TWELVE (12) SOVIETS AND CUBANS ARE ON SAL STAYING AT HOTEL ATLANTICO IN ESPARGOS SOME TWO (2) KILOMETERS FROM AMILCAR CABRAL AIRPORT. TECHNICIANS PROVIDE SERVICING FOR AEROFLOT, ANGOLA AIRLINES (TAG) AND CUBAN AIRLINES' PLANES TRANSITING SAL FROM HAVANA. WE BELIEVE THAT SAL IS ALSO BEING USED AS CREW EXCHANGE
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PAGE 02 PRAIA 00180 151627Z

POINT.

2. SOURCE IN POSITION TO KNOW (FORMER DIRECTOR OF TAG AIRLINES) TOLD CHARGE THAT CAPEVERDEAN OFFICIALS AT AMILCAR CABRAL AIRPORT RECEIVE PAYMENT FOR USE OF AIRPORT FACILITIES IN CASH (U.S. DOLLARS). PAYMENTS ARE ALWAYS MADE BY REPRESENTATIVE OF CUBAN AIRLINES. TOTAL OF PAYMENT

FOR EACH TRANSIT IS MORE THAN TWENTY THOUSAND DOLLARS.
DISPOSITION OF THESE FUNDS IS NOT KNOWN THOUGH WE DO NOT
RPT NOT BELIEVE THEY BECOME PART OF GENERAL RECEIPTS OF
GOCV.

3. THERE IS REGULAR LIASON (VISIT) WITH CUBAN AND SOVIET
PERSONNEL STATIONED ON SAL BY PERSONNEL OF SOVIET EMBASSY
IN PRAIA. CUBAN EMBASSY OFFICER FOR BISSAU ALSO VISITS
SAL PERIODICALLY.

4. SECURITY PROCEDURES AT AMILCAR CABRAL AIRPORT HAVE BEEN
TIGHTENED OVER PAST FEW WEEKS. PHOTOGRAPHS ARE STRICTLY
FORBIDDEN, PASSAGE THROUGH TRANSIT AREA IS TIGHTLY
CONTROLLED AND NORTH END OF AIRFIELD (WHERE AEROFLOT, TAG
AND CUBAN AIRLINES PLANES ARE SERVICED) IS BEING ENCLOSED
BY EIGHT FOOT FENCE HIGHLIGHTED BY WATCH TOWERS. GUARDS
IN THE AREA APPEAR TO BE MILITARY RATHER THAN PUBLIC
SECURITY POLICE.
MCGOWAN

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